

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gilbert M. Aust et al.
Reissue of U.S. Patent No. : 5,540,706
Issued Date : July 30, 1996
For : SURGICAL INSTRUMENT
Attorney Docket No. : A31-2047RE
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
October 12, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
And Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This information disclosure statement is being filed to
fulfill the duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and
Trademark Office, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

Below is a list of information of which persons
substantively involved in the preparation of the application
identified above, are aware of and believe that a reasonable
Examiner may consider important to deciding whether to allow
the application. Although a search to locate the best
information may have been made, this document is not a
representation that such a search has been made and is not a

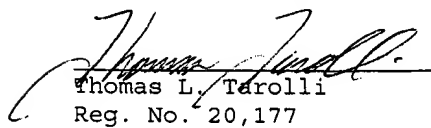
representation that no other information exists. However, this document is not to be construed as being an admission that any of the items set forth in the list is "material" as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b).

Copies of the below mentioned items and PTO Form 1449 are attached.

<u>Items</u>		
<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>		<u>Dated</u>
3,470,876		October 7, 1969
3,605,725		September 20, 1971
4,274,414		June 23, 1981
4,362,160		December 7, 1982
4,499,899		February 19, 1985
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5,209,747		May 11, 1993
5,295,990		March 22, 1994
5,330,502		July 19, 1994
5,354,311		October 11, 1994

<u>Foreign/Other Documents</u>		
Germany	DE 392 070 6A1	1991
Germany	DE 413 686 1A1	1993
Germany	DE 420 405 1A1	1993
EPO	0 301 288 A1	1988
France	2 662 778	1991
PCT	WO 93/00048	1993
PCT	WO 93/20760	1993
PCT	WO 93/20768	1993

Respectfully submitted,


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